Atty Dkt. No. 33216M069

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Yoshitomi NAGAOKA et al.

Serial No.: New Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: February 5, 2001 Examiner: Unassigned

For : SIGNAL ENCODING TRANSMISSION APPARATUS, SIGNAL DECODING

RECEIVING APPARATUS, AND PROGRAM RECORDING MEDIUM

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to or concurrent with calculation of the filing fees, please amend this application as follows.

## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 18 as follows.

Claim 18, line 4, change "any one of claims 1 to 17" to --claim 1, 6, 10 or 14--.

## **REMARKS**

Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested prior to or concurrent with calculation of the filing fees. This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to correct improper multiple dependencies in claim 18. As so amended, the claims are submitted as appearing in proper multiple dependent form.

Atty. Docket No: 33216M069

Examination on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted, SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

By: Michael A. Makuch, Reg. No. 32,263

1850 M Street, N.W., Suite 800

Washington, D.C. 20036 Telephone: (202) 659-2811

Fax: (202) 263-4329

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